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SUBJECT: TFGG01: GEORGIA TASK FORCE SITUATION REPORT NO.

32

CLASSIFIED BY: BMTHOMAS, S/ES-O, REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

RUSSIANS BEGIN TROOP WITHDRAWAL TO SOUTH OSSETIA

1. (C) OSCE monitors patrolling east and west of Gori confirm Russian forces are heading north outside the city. (TF/Embassy Tbilisi e-mail)

2. (C) Embassy Tbilisi reports Russia intends to establish demilitarized "buffer zones" extending outside the boundaries of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Embassy Moscow adds Russian Deputy Head of General Staff Nogovitsyn said Russian troops would remain as peacekeepers at 18 checkpoints. (TF/Embassy Tbilisi telcon, Moscow 2522)

3. (SBU) Embassy Moscow notes the troop withdrawal into Russia could take an additional 10 days. (TF/Embassy Moscow telcon)

TWO FINNISH OSCE MONITORS ARRIVE, MORE EXPECTED

4. (C) USOSCE projects all 20 additional MMOs will arrive by August 27-28. EUCOM, however, notes vehicles

and support equipment will be delayed until at least August 29 due to retrofit problems. (TF/EUCOM telcon, TF/USOSCE e-mail)

USG HUMANITARIAN AID REACHES \$10.7 MILLION

¶5. (SBU) Four EUCOM flights carrying food arrived, bringing the total to 36 flights. (TF/USAID e-mail)

¶6. (S) USS McFaul transited the Bosphorus and is scheduled to reach Batumi port August 24. (TF/EUCOM DVC)

FUEL TRUCKS NOW ENTERING ARMENIA THROUGH GEORGIA

¶7. (SBU) Embassy Yerevan reports the transit of 32 fuel trucks previously detained in Batumi should help ease gasoline shortage concerns in Armenia. Post has not been affected by the shortage. Embassy Tbilisi adds the Marneuli border bridge in eastern Georgia remains operable despite a bombing. (TF/Embassy Yerevan e-mail, TF/Embassy Tbilisi e-mail)

¶8. (U) Minimize considered.
RICE